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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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As first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.  
20231 on December 29, 2003.*

Signature

Applicant : Bin Zhao  
Application No. : 09/876,368  
Filed : 06/07/2001  
Title : Interleaver using spatial birefringent elements

Grp./Div. : 2872  
Examiner : Craig Curtis  
Client Matter :

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Washington, D.C. 20231

NEW ADDRESS: 14 Figaro  
Irvine, CA 92606

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 03, 2003, please amend the above identified patent application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-24 (canceled)

Claim 25. (currently amend) An interleaver comprising:

a birefringent element assembly comprising at least one spatial birefringent element, the birefringent element assembly providing two output components;